

Women Printers during the Hand Press Era in Europe and Colonial America: Leveraging Wikidata as a Discovery Tool

Daniela Rovida

Rare Books Metadata Librarian
Hesburgh Libraries
University of Notre Dame

Cindy Tian

Metadata Services Librarian
Kresge Law Library
University of Notre Dame

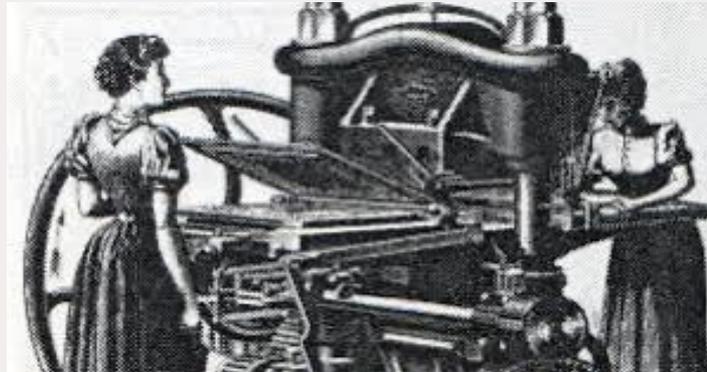


Image courtesy of Center for Printing History and Culture

FDLP Academy Webinar

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Introduction to Our Project

- Project began in 2022 by the collaboration of two librarians at the University of Notre Dame
- We were interested in learning more about women printers and resurfacing their names and work
- Recently learned and contributed to Wikidata
- Plan to experiment with tools like OpenRefine and QuickStatements to achieve our goal



Printer's device used by the Italian female typographer Giromala Cartolari between 1546 and 1559

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marca_tipografica_di_Gerolama_Cartolari.jpg

About This Presentation

- Introduce Wikidata as one of the linked data tools for making data more open and accessible
- Explain women's significant roles in the long printing history
- Prompt librarians and other information professionals to start similar projects to promote the discoverability of resources

Martina Plantin (1550–1616), the wife of Jan Moretus, ran Plantin Press from 1610 to 1614.
[Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons]

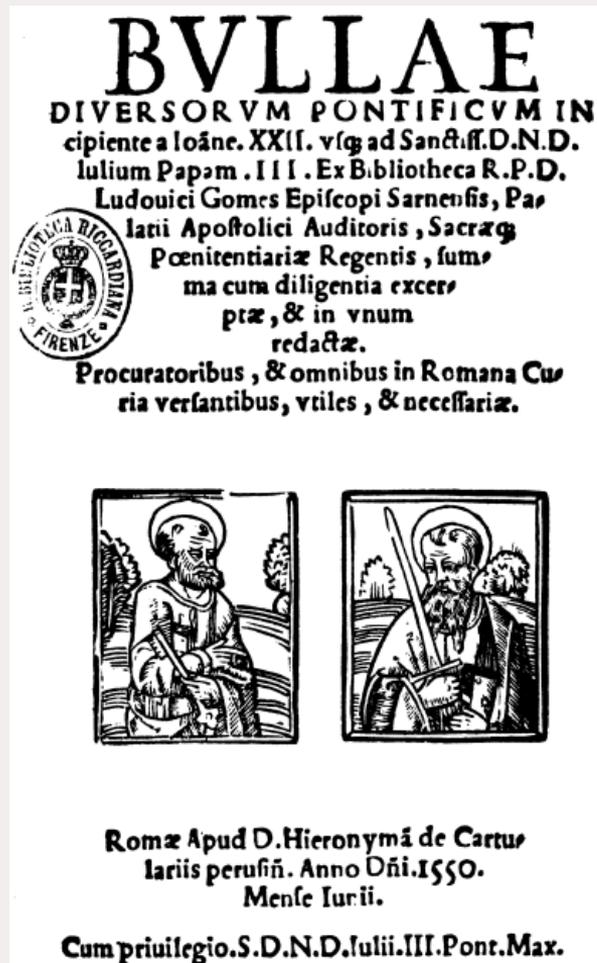


Why Female Printers?

- Less represented on the Web than male printers
- Used the name of their spouse on printed material
- Known as “Widow of” or “Daughter of”
- Misrepresentation

Papal bull, printed by Girolama Cartolari, Biblioteca Riccardiana, Florence.

G.M. Mazzucchelli, in listing Michelangelo Biondo’s works in *Gli scrittori d’Italia* (1753-63), corrects Girolama Cartolari’s colophon, changing her name from Hieronymam (Girolama) to Hieronymum (Girolamo).



Why Wikidata?

- Central storage for structured data on the Web that can be easily accessed, queried, and reused
- Supports multiple languages; editors work with the same data regardless of their language of expertise
- Was launched approximately 10 years ago and is now a free and open knowledge base with more than 100 million items
- Through querying, data can be accessed, retrieved, reused and displayed in meaningful ways
- Data can be entered manually or through batch processing



Example of Wikidata Item

Mary Katharine Goddard (Q3850479)

American printer and publisher
Mary Katherine Goddard | Mary K. Goddard

edit

[In more languages](#)
[Configure](#)

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Mary Katharine Goddard	American printer and publisher	Mary Katherine Goddard Mary K. Goddard
Spanish	Mary Katharine Goddard	editora estadounidense	Mary Katherine Goddard
Traditional Chinese	No label defined	No description defined	
Chinese	No label defined	No description defined	

[All entered languages](#)

Statements

instance of	human 1 reference	edit
+ add value		
sex or gender	female 1 reference	edit
+ add value		
country of citizenship	United States of America 1 reference	edit
+ add value		

Wikipedia (9 entries) edit

ar	ماری کاترین گودارد
arz	ماری کاترین جودارد
ca	Mary Goddard
de	Mary Katharine Goddard
en	Mary Katharine Goddard
es	Mary Katherine Goddard
fr	Mary Katherine Goddard
it	Mary Katherine Goddard
sv	Mary Katherine Goddard

Wikibooks (0 entries) edit

Wikinews (0 entries) edit

Wikiquote (0 entries) edit

Wikisource (0 entries) edit

Wikiversity (0 entries) edit

Wikivoyage (0 entries) edit

Wiktionary (0 entries) edit

Multilingual sites (1 entry) edit

Label

Q identifier

Properties

Values

<https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q3850479>

Linking data

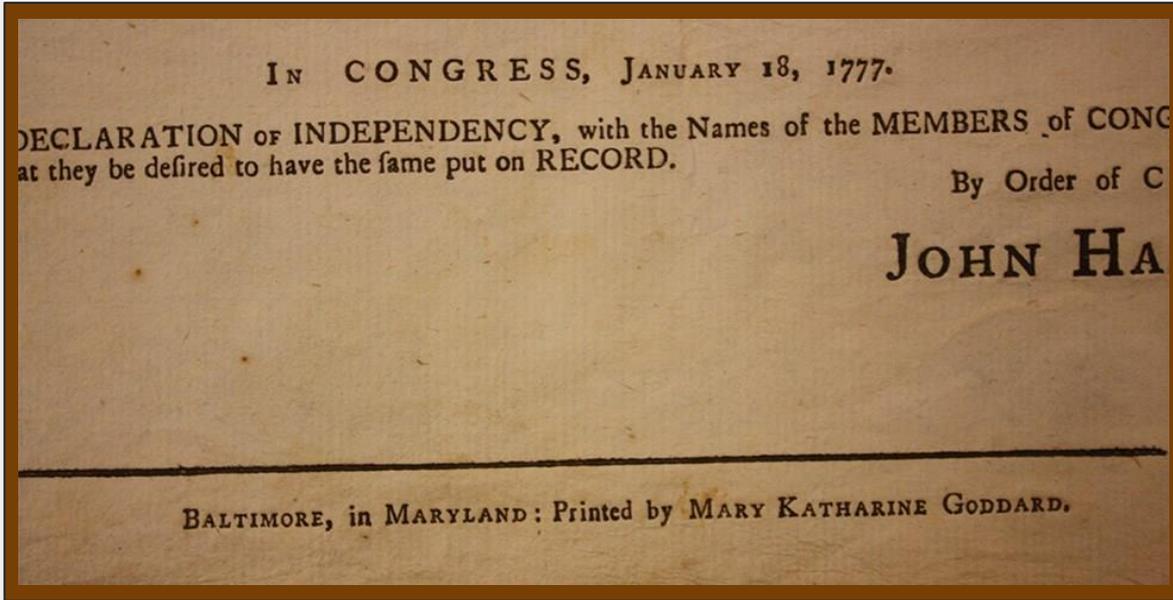


Image courtesy of [National Park Service](#)

Wikidata item for United States Declaration of Independence (Goddard Broadside): <https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q15642651>

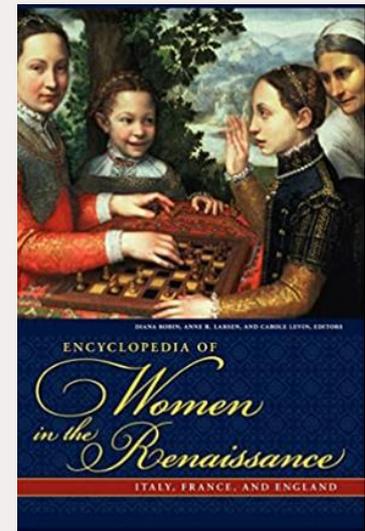
Mary K. Goddard's name can be linked to the version of the copy of the Declaration of Independence that she printed in 1777.

This document can be linked to other versions of the Declaration of Independence.

Mary's Wikidata page can also be linked to her brother's Wikidata page. He was also a printer.

Data Sources

- Axel Erdmann, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *My Gracious Silence : Women in the Mirror of 16th Century Printing in Western Europe*. Luzern : Gilhofer & Ranschburg, 1999
- Wikipedia: [List of women printers and publishers before 1800](#)
- The Women's Print History Project: <https://womensprintheoryproject.com/>
- Anne R Larsen, Diana Robin, Carole Levin, *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France, and England*. Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2007
- Marjorie Dana Barlow, *Notes on Women printers in Colonial America and the United States, 1639-1975*. New York: Hroswitha Club; Charlottesville, Va.: Distributed by the University Press of Virginia, 1976

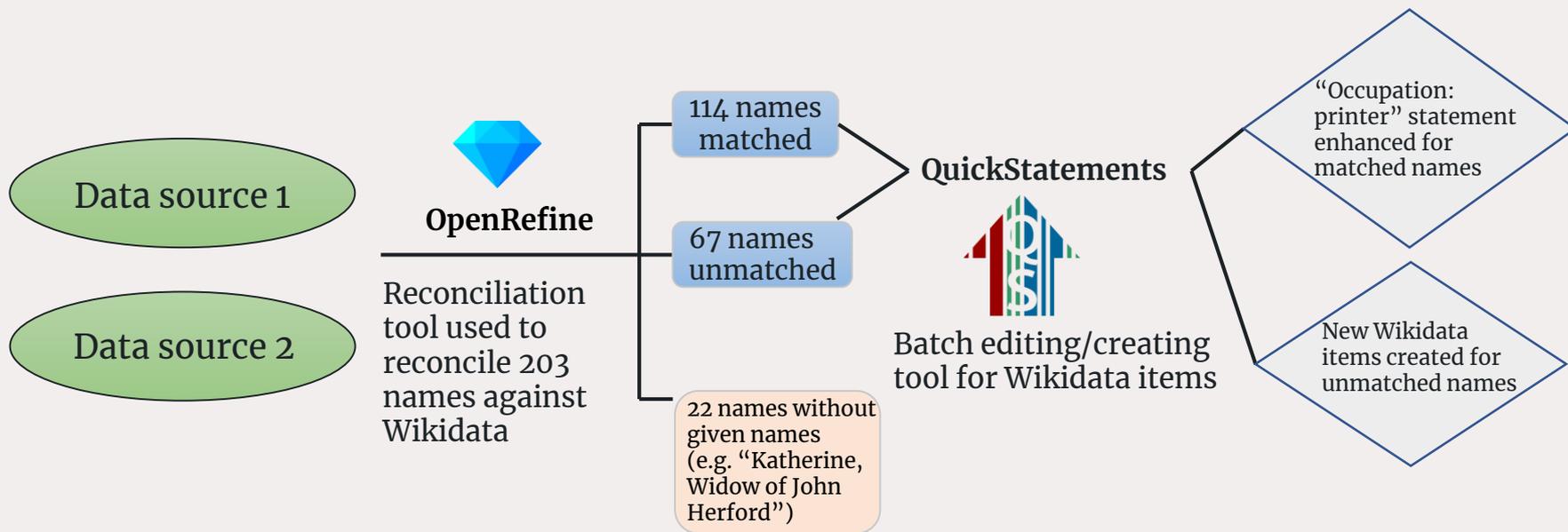


The Women's Print History Project is a bibliographical database of women's contributions to print during the eighteenth century.

Data Model

Basic Description		
Property	Value	Usage note
Label	Person's name as given on the data source	language = English
Description	"Printer"	language = English
instance of (P31)	human (Q5)	
sex or gender (P21)	female (Q6581072)	
Core Description		
Property	Value	Usage note
Alias	other form of name in use (e.g. "Widow of...")	language = English
occupation (P106)	printer (Q175151)	
work location (P9307)	Person's work location if known	
work period (start) (P2031)	Start of period during which Person flourished if known	
work period (end) (P2032)	End of period during which Person flourished if known	
on focus list of Wikimedia project (P5008)	WikiProject: Women in Printing Industry before 1800 (Q116950296)	
Extended Description		
Property	Value	Usage note
date of birth (P569)	Person's date of birth if known	
date of death (P570)	Person's date of death if known	
birth name (P1477)	name given at birth	
place of birth (P19)	place of birth if known	
place of death (P20)	place of death if known	
spouse (P26)	name of spouse	
...		

Workflow



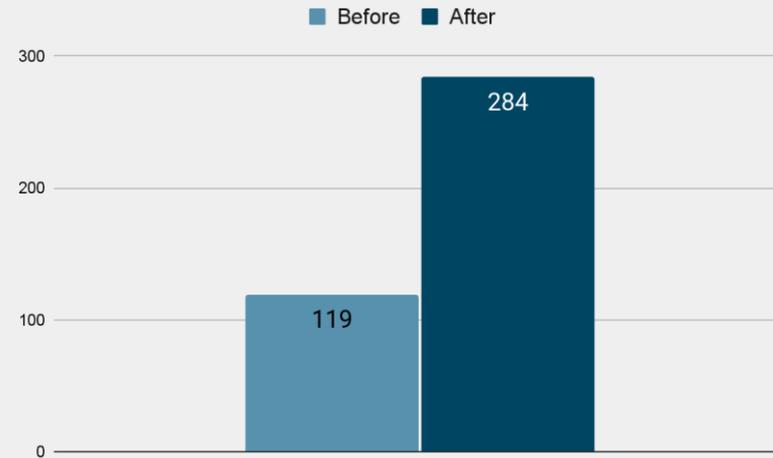
Wikidata Query Service

- SPARQL queries retrieve data in Wikidata
 - Example: retrieving all female printers born before 1800:
<https://w.wiki/6cvU>
- Data visualization in a map view / chart view / timeline view / ...
- Community to help get started
 - Built-in examples
 - Query Builder: visual interface to build queries

<https://query.wikidata.org>

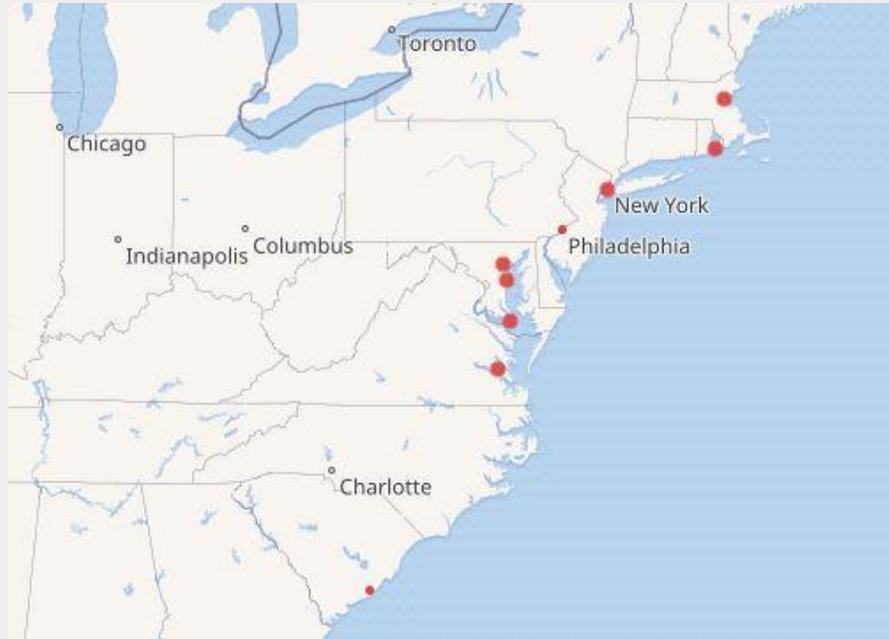


Result: Increased Number of Items in Wikidata



Query Results for Number of Pre-1800 Women Printers in Wikidata Before and After Processing

Result: Map View of Work Locations



Work Locations Map View

Result: Fixed Label Errors in Wikidata

Veuve de Daniel Horthemels

(Q59422293)

No description defined

[In more languages](#)

[Configure](#)

Language	Label	Description
English	Veuve de Daniel Horthemels	No description defined
American English	No label defined	No description defined
Spanish	Veuve Daniel Horthemels	No description defined
Traditional Chinese	No label defined	No description defined

Marie-Anne Cellier

(Q59422293)

better known as Widow of Daniel Horthemels

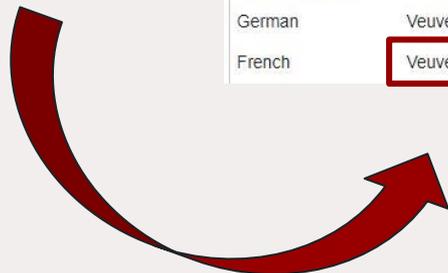
Widow of Daniel Horthemels

[edit](#)

[In more languages](#)

[Configure](#)

Language	Label	Description	Also known as
English	Marie-Anne Cellier	better known as Widow of Daniel Horthemels	Widow of Daniel Horthemels
American English	No label defined	No description defined	
Spanish	Veuve Daniel Horthemels	No description defined	
Traditional Chinese	No label defined	No description defined	
German	Veuve de Daniel Horthemels	französische Buchhändlerin und Verlegerin	Marie-Anne Cellier
French	Veuve de Daniel Horthemels	No description defined	

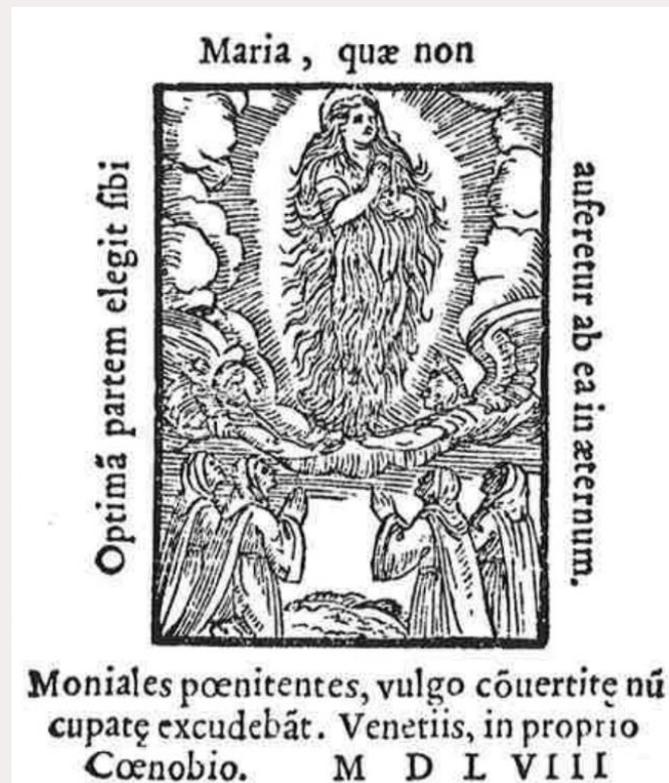


Challenges

- Name variations
 - e.g., “*Catarina de Silvestro*” vs. “*Caterina de Silvestro*”
- Inconsistent use of Wikidata properties may lead to querying inaccuracies
 - e.g., “printer” (Q175151) vs. “printer-bookseller” (Q40881196)
- Wikidata constraints
 - e.g., “Contemporary constraint” when adding locations

Future Work

- Continue to collect more women printer names from different sources
- Further refine the query in use
- More Wikidata items enhancement
 - “Widow/Daughter...of...”
 - Backlink the women printers’ names to their spouses or fathers
 - Add external identifiers
- Extend our work to corporate bodies that contributed to the printing of texts during the hand-press era.
 - Example: Monastero delle Convertite, Venice.
- Expand to the works that the women printers had produced in the hand-press era and interlink the names and the works



Woodcut device used by the nuns of Monastero delle Convertite (fl. 1557-1559).
(cf. F. Ascarelli & M. Monato, *La tipografia del '500 in Italia*, Firenze, 1989, pp.400-401)

Getting Involved in Wikidata

- Open to everyone to contribute
- Start small
- Good way to get started with linked data creation and/or editing



References

- Deborah Parker, “Women in the Book Trade in Italy, 1475-1620, ” *Renaissance Quarterly*; 49 (1996): 509-541
- Axel Erdmann, Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *My Gracious Silence : Women in the Mirror of 16th Century Printing in Western Europe*. Luzern : Gilhofer & Ranschburg, 1999
- Wikipedia: [List of women printers and publishers before 1800](#)
- The Women’s Print History Project: <https://womensprinthistoryproject.com/>
- Anne R Larsen, Diana Robin, Carole Levin, *Encyclopedia of Women in the Renaissance: Italy, France, and England*. Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2007
- Theresa A. Rini, ”Women printers in America to 1820, ” *Southern Connecticut State University ProQuest Dissertations Publishing*, 1978.
- Leona M. Hudak, *Early American women printers and publishers, 1639-1820*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1978
- Marjorie Dana Barlow, *Notes on Women printers in Colonial America and the United States, 1639-1975*. New York: Hroswitha Club; Charlottesville, Va.: Distributed by the University Press of Virginia, 1976
- “Early Women Printers” (online exhibit), Tarlton Law Library, University of Texas at Austin, <https://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/early-women-printers/printed-books> (last accessed April 24, 2023)
- History of US women in printing, August 24, 2020. <https://www.frederickbookarts.org/post/history-of-us-women-in-printing>

Questions?

Daniela Rovida drovida@nd.edu

Cindy Tian ttian@nd.edu